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ABSTRACT

The automotive industry continues to be the only industry that has set national standards for vocational-technical education and certification programs that meet those standards. The certification program for automotive technician training has proved that it improves the quality of training in programs at secondary and postsecondary levels. Private schools are currently becoming involved in the certification program, with 55 private schools now approved by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. The impact of program certification is directly related to the emphasis placed upon such certification by the state leadership for vocational-technical education. The following states lead in program certification: Kentucky, Ohio, California, Georgia, and Florida. Promotion of certification for programs continues to be the major problem. A review of reports of employer evaluation of graduates of the programs showed employers were very positive, evaluating vocational graduates highly. Auto body certification programs have begun. The certification bodies have also begun to develop updating programs. (Statistics by the National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation on certification programs in 47 states are provided.) (KC)

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REPORT TO NATEF BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ON
CERTIFICATION AND UPDATE TRAINING

December 2, 1989

I. ASE Certification of Automotive Technician Training Programs

A. Statistical Summary as of November 30, 1989

1. Program Certification

Programs Certified	344
Programs Approved for Team Review	54
Programs Recertified	6
States Approved to Participate	46
Programs Purchasing Self Studies	1,662
States with Trained ETLs	33

The following States lead in Program Certifications:

Kentucky	64
Ohio	46
California	36
Georgia	36
Florida	25

A summary of Activities by States is attached as Appendix A.

B. Program Progress

The automotive industry continues to be the only industry which has set national standards for vocational/technical education and certificates programs which meet these standards. Over the nation, government officials, educators, parent groups and public organizations continue to search for patterns of improving education for youth and adults. In some States the legislators are demanding improvements in educational achievements, including vocational/technical education. The certification program for automotive technician training has proved that it improves the quality of training in programs at the secondary, post-secondary, technical institute, and community college levels.

The private schools are now becoming involved in the program certification, with the Lincoln Technical Institutes being the latest group of private schools to be involved. It is estimated, there are a total of 55 private schools approved by the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools.

It is obvious the impact of program certification upon vocational/technical programs over the nation is in direct proportion to the emphasis placed upon such certification by the State Leadership for vocational/technical education. Five States have continued to lead over a period of several years. In some States, the issue is not so much the lack of interest but the small number of persons in leadership positions at the State level.

The certification process is sound and functioning smoothly and program improvements resulting from certification justify the effort.

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Promotion of certification for programs funded by federal, State and local dollars to prepare youth and adults for employment continues to be the major problem. The major motivational factors at present are:

Interest of State leadership for program improvement;
Allocation of automotive equipment by manufacturers to certified programs;
Interest of individual programs in self improvement and recognition.

The first programs certified are now ready for recertification. Seven programs were eligible for recertification as of July 1, 1989. Status of the seven are as follows:

3 Recertified;
2 Approved for team review;
1 Not eligible;
1 Just notified as of 10/89

Two additional programs have already recertified.

C. Report on Employer Opinions

The procedure for team review of a program requires one of the teams to visit at least three employers. A questionnaire is used to record and report on the responses of the employers. The employers are asked to compare graduates of the program undergoing review, who they have employed, with entry level persons of a similar age without such training.

The employer is asked to rate the graduate(s) on a scale of 1-5, with 5 high and 1 low. Ratings are obtained for:

1. Entry level skills;
2. Work habits and attitudes;
3. Attendance and punctuality;
4. Opportunities for employment.

The questionaires are fowarded to the national office as a part of the final report from the review team.

In September 1989, a review was made of the reports of employer evaluations completed as a part of team reviews made before that date. A summary of the employer evaluations is reported as Appendix B. Employer evaluations are summerized for all certified programs and for Kentucky, the State with the largest number of program certifications.

The results are very gratifying in favor of the students graduating from vocational/technical programs. Overwhelmingly so. On each of the four factors, the report for all employers indicate.

Factors:	Employer Evaluations of Voc/Tech Graduates	
1. Entry level skills	77%	4 & 5 aver.
	2%	1 & 2 aver.
	40%	at the 5 level
2. Work habits and attitudes	86%	4 & 5 aver.

	2%	1 & 2 aver.
	54%	at the 5 level
3. Attendance and punctuality	91%	4 & 5 aver.
	1%	1 & 2 aver.
	67%	at the 5 level
4. Opportunities for advancement	86%	4 & 5 aver.
	2%	1 & 2 aver.
	58%	at the 5 level

The reports from employers suggest:
Vocational graduates are evaluated highly by employers as entry level employees on all four factors. Factors of work habits and attitudes, and attendance and punctuality are evaluated even more highly than entry level skills.

Vocational/technical graduates have excellent opportunities for advancement.

The summary for Kentucky, the State with the most certifications, reports an even better pattern of employer evaluations than the whole.

D. Minimum Number of Specialties for Certification

In response to a request from a State for reduction in the minimum number of speciality areas required for certification from three to one, the Trustees appointed a committee to consider the recommendation.

Mr. Pohanka, Chairman of the Committee, directed Byrl R. Shoemaker, Educational Consultant, NATEF, to conduct a brief survey of States with the largest number of certifications to obtain their opinion on such a change. The Consultant contacted the top ten States in program certification. Six States responded by the survey card and three by letter. A copy of the memorandum sent to the nine States is attached as Appendix C.

Eight of the nine States responding opposed the return to certifying one program.

The NATEF Committee appointed to consider the issue met during the Spring 1989 ASE Board Meeting. All NATEF Trustees attending the Board Meeting were invited to participate in the discussion. It was voted to recommend to the NATEF Board of Trustees the minimum of three areas for certification be retained.

E. Action on Trustees Recommendations Made by the Trustees at the January 11, 1989 Meeting

1. Recommendation: A program must complete the team evaluation within one year from date of approval.
Action: Implemented.

2. Recommendation: Contact ATAE Mgrs. or NADA Directors when program does not complete evaluation in one year.
Action: Not implemented due to staff load.

3. Recommendation: Request assistance from ASE Board in moving programs from self evaluation to certification.
Action: Five ASE Board members were asked to pilot an effort to motivate program certification. Appendix D reports the excellent efforts of Joseph DePaolis in New York and Greg McConiga,Indiana.

4. Recommendation: Research to involve all facets of the automotive industry in program certification.
Action: ASE Board Chairman, Jim Kiple, has made a direct appeal to all ASE Board members to promote both automotive and auto body training program certifications.

5. Recommendation: Replacement of Wang computer.
Action: The ASE Wang computer has been assigned to NATEF.

6. Recommendation: Effort to develop an equitable spread of financial support.
Action: To be discussed at later meeting.

7. Recommendation: Standards and Policies for the Auto Body Training Certification Program.
Action: Approved by ASE Board as recommended by NATEF Board of Trustees.

F. Recommendations

It is recommended:

1. The minimum of three areas for program certification be retained.

2. On page 2 of the Policy and Procedures Manual, add the following to the last sentence on the page:
"The ETL assigned must NOT be a present or former teacher or administrator of the program to be evaluated."

3. On page 4 of the Policy and Procedures Manual, add the following sentence to the end of the first paragraph:
"The team members must include representation from both dealership and independent service centers."

4. On Page 4 of the Policy and Procedures Manual, add the following sentence to the beginning of the fourth paragraph:
"The program must be in operation during the two days the program is reviewed by the evaluation team."

5. That a letter of appreciation and commendation be sent to James Kiple, Chairman, ASE Board, for the attention and support given training program certification by the ASE Board.

6. That a letter be sent to the Secretary of Education and Chief State School Officers of the fifty States pointing out the need for qualified entry level technicians, the level of persons needed and the importance of in-depth training needed for persons preparing for entry. The letter should state that competence in basic skills is essential but that such competence should be achieved by age 16, and that applied math and science should support not substitute for training in occupational skills in the last two years of high school.

It is further recommended that such a letter have the endorsement of several national automtoive organizations.

II. Auto Body Certification Program

A. Program Activities

The auto body training certification program was approved for implementation at the Spring 1989 meeting of the ASE Board. All States that have been approved for participation in the automotive technician training certification program are eligible, upon request from the State Vocational Education leadership, to participate in auto body program certification.

One hundred fifty requests have been received for self study materials. Distribution of materials was held up until a revision could be completed in the tool and equipment list. Initial distribution, based on requests, was completed in November.

A number of States have made requests to participate in auto body certification. Evaluation team leaders (ETLs) have been trained in Georgia, Florida and Ohio. After ETLs have been trained in the initial five States, it will be required that two programs be ready for team review before ETLs will be trained.

A meeting was held in Detroit in October, 1989 to review and revise the tool and equipment list. Several sources had questioned the adequacy of the list submitted to the ASE Board at their Spring Meeting. The review session was coordinated by Joseph Mills, NATEF Consultant for Auto Body Training Program Certification, and chaired by Amos Stackhouse, Auto Body Consultant for NATEF. Both industry and education were represented on the committee. Revision of the tool and equipment list was completed.

B. Recommendations

None. The revised tool and equipment list was approved by the ASE Board at the November 1989, Meeting.

III. Update Training

A. Enrollments in update training programs have exploded in Florida and increased significantly in Ohio.

New leadership was assigned to the update training effort in Florida in the person of:

Jack R. Grisham, Director
High Technology Development
Adult and Vocational Education
University of Southern Florida

Reports from 13 of the 14 approved update training centers in Florida indicate enrollment increased to 11,109 for FY 1989, ending June 30 1989. The enrollment for the previous year totaled 525.
The outstanding programs were in:

Sheridon Vocational Technical Center, Mike Setzer, Prog. Mgr.
Mid-Florida Technical Institute, Dick Prouix, Prog. Mgr.

Participant evaluations reported:

89.5% rated facilities and materials above average;
84% " length of training "about right"
96% " instructors as competent in skills and technical knowledge.

Years of experience of participants:

1-4	5-10	10-15	15-20	over 20
27%	27%	20%	14%	12%

Type of employment of participants:

Dealership	Independent	Service Station	Other
63%	19%	4%	14%

A summary of the Florida program is attached as Appendix E.

The update training enrollments in Ohio totaled 3288 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1989. This report was for 15 of the 16 participating centers. The Great Oaks Joint Vocational School, Sinclair Community College and Pickaway Ross Joint Vocational School were the leaders in enrollments.

Students, as in Florida, reported high evaluations for facilities, equipment and instruction.

The Ohio program has the support of an outstanding advisory committee chaired by John Saia, a member of the ASE Board. The committee organized an award program for the person selected as the outstanding instructor for the year. The awards included cash and equipment with the value of over $4000.00. Mr. James D'Onofrio, update training instructor, Pickaway Ross Joint Vocational School, was selected for the award. A copy of the Ohio report is attached as Appendix F.

The update training program approved for Georgia has had strong support from an industry committee chaired by Lou Rice, Genuine Parts Co. and a member of the ASE Board. All twenty-eight of the Georgia post-secondary centers are ASE certified and are very willing to participate in update training. The effort, however, has lacked State

leadership. Mr. James Crisp, Director, Post-secondary Programs, has recently been assigned the leadership role in the program and has promised prompt action in expediting update training.

The NATEF Board of Trustees has previously approved the investigation of update training programs for Kentucky and California. Kentucky has reported it is not ready to initiate an update program due to limitations on the number of staff persons in the Trade and Industrial Education Division.

California reported that an update training program was under development through automotive organizations in the State. Appendix G reports on the development of an update training program sponsored by the California Service Station and Auto Repair Association in conjunction with Allen Testproducts. The program receives funding from the 1/10 of 1% of the State's insurance funds toward skilled worker retaining. Training is offered to employees only and Dealer technicians do not qualify.

B. Recommendations

1. It is recommended that detailed information be obtained concerning the California Update Training Program and studied for application to other States.
2. It is recommended that as soon as States have 15 programs certified they be invited to initiate an update training program.

Prepared by:

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Educational Consultant, NATEF

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NATIONAL AUTOMOTIVE TECHNICIANS EDUCATION FOUNDATION, INC.

Report On The Automobile Technician
Training Certification Program
March 31, 1990

To date, forty-seven states are currently participating in the certification program. There are 382 programs certified, of which 11 programs have recertified; 78 are completing team evaluations; and 1,675 programs are conducting self-evaluations. There are 261 Evaluation Team Leaders trained in thirty-three states. Arizona will soon be added to this list following their training session in April.

Below is an outline of the program's progress within each state.

STATE	# OF ETLs TRAINED	# OF SELF-EVAL.	# OF TEAM EVAL.	# OF PROGRAMS CERTIFIED	PROGRAMS RECERTIFIED
ALABAMA	11	36	4	3	
ALASKA	0	3	0	0	
ARIZONA	0	16	1	4	
ARKANSAS	12	32	19	14	
CALIFORNIA	24	243	5	40	2
COLORADO	7	35	0	2	
DELAWARE	0	4	0	1	
DIST OF COLUMBIA	0	6	0	0	
FLORIDA	13	66	0	26	2
GEORGIA	9	33	9	38	
IDAHO	2	6	0	3	1
ILLINOIS	7	64	1	5	
INDIANA	6	36	0	5	
IOWA	8	10	1	4	
KANSAS	8	17	2	3	
KENTUCKY	14	20	5	66	
LOUISIANA	0	15	0	0	
MAINE	0	11	0	1	
MARYLAND	5	26	1	3	
MASSACHUSETTS	8	58	2	7	
MICHIGAN	8	96	0	9	
MINNESOTA	4	26	2	5	
MISSISSIPPI	7	30	0	4	
MISSOURI	6	50	1	7	
MONTANA	5	4	1	3	
NEBRASKA	7	8	0	4	
NEVADA	0	11	0	0	
NEW HAMPSHIRE	0	5	0	0	
NEW JERSEY	14	32	2	4	
NEW MEXICO	0	9	0	2	
NEW YORK	6	56	3	5	1
NORTH CAROLINA	0	44	1	2	
NORTH DAKOTA	0	9	0	0	
OHIO	9	94	7	51	1
OKLAHOMA	2	37	1	5	
OREGON	4	22	0	4	
PENNSYLVANIA	8	56	3	8	
SOUTH CAROLINA	2	52	0	2	
SOUTH DAKOTA	0	4	0	1	
TENNESSEE	11	48	2	14	
TEXAS	7	85	1	9	3
UTAH	9	36	1	2	
VERMONT	0	9	0	1	
VIRGINIA	0	49	0	4	1
WASHINGTON	16	30	0	5	
WEST VIRGINIA	0	10	0	0	
WISCONSIN	2	21	2	6	
WYOMING	0	5	1	0	

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